Iowa Department of Public Health Oral Health Bureau

2002-03 School-based Dental Sealant Program

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) funded five contracts for school-based dental sealant programs for school year 2002-03. Contractors and the counties served were:

- American Home Finding (Davis, Keokuk, and Van Buren Counties)
- Black Hawk County Health Department (Black Hawk County)
- Unity Health System (Louisa and Muscatine Counties)
- Upper Des Moines Opportunities (Buena Vista, Clay, Emmet, Palo Alto, and Pocahontas Counties)
- Washington County Public Health & Home Care (Henry and Washington Counties)

Participating schools had a high percentage of students on the free and reduced lunch program and/or had students with a need for preventive dental services. Students in second through eighth grades were targeted.

Dentists provided dental examinations to all participating children and dental hygienists applied the dental sealants. Each contractor submitted monthly data files to the IDPH for analysis. From September through May, over 3,400 children received dental examinations. Of those, over 2,700 received at least one sealant, with 15,446 sealants placed.

Twenty percent of participating children were enrolled in Medicaid, 24 percent had private dental insurance, and 25 percent had no dental insurance. Fifty-eight percent of participating children had a history of tooth decay. This was even higher, 64 percent, for Medicaid-enrolled children. Thirty-three percent of the children had untreated decay.

Contractors in their second year of a 3-year project were required to perform retention checks. Each contractor was responsible for checking a specific number of teeth, determined by the IDPH, that were sealed 12 months previously. A Microsoft Excel data file was created and provided to each contractor and protocol for retention checks was added to the School-based Sealant Program Data Recording System. Following retention checks, the data files were sent to IDPH for analysis.

Overall, 1,068 teeth were checked and 91 teeth needed to be re-sealed, a retention rate of 91.5 percent, slightly higher than the 89 percent anticipated success rate, determined through national retention studies.

IDPH School-Based Sealant Program Annual Report: School Year 2002-03

AGENCY	Total # of children examined	Total # of children receiving sealants	Total sealants placed	Total sealants on Medicaid children	# of children with history ¹ of decay	# of Medicaid children with history ¹ of decay	# of children with untreated ² decay	# of Medicaid children with untreated ² decay	# of children with private insurance	# of children with no dental insurance	# of children with Medicaid
AHF	268	180	509	125	153	34	75	19	87	89	58
		67%	AVG 1.9	AVG 2.2	57%	59%	28%	33%	33%	33%	22%
Black Hawk	1,678	1,371	7,338	1,841	939	230	448	116	194	281	387
		82%	AVG 4.4	AVG 4.3	56%	61%	27%	31%	13%	18%	24%
Unity Public Health	255	151	465	113	206	67	178	58	66	57	77
		59%	AVG 1.8	AVG 1.5	81%	87%	70%	75%	30%	26%	35%
Upper DSM	601	516	3,382	475	353	59	246	46	223	198	91
		86%	AVG 5.6	AVG 5.2	59%	65%	41%	51%	37%	33%	15%
Washington Co.	677	537	3,752	576	355	65	200	41	277	243	100
		79%	AVG 5.5	AVG 5.8	52%	65%	30%	41%	41%	36%	15%
TOTALS	3,479	2,755	15,446	3,130	2,006	455	1,147	280	847	868	713
		79%	AVG 4.4	AVG 4.4	58%	64%	33%	39%	24%	25%	20%

¹ Includes filled teeth and untreated decay.

Does not include questionable decay. Average sealant placed is based on the number of children examined.

The average or rate related to payment sources for Black Hawk is based on information up to April instead of May, as there were some data not entered for May.